

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /085 W

-----152123Z 097062 /63

P R 151744Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIOTIY 9819

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SP

SUBJECT: LABOR'S APRIL 15 "DY OF PROTEST" RECEIVES LUKEWARM SUPPORT

REF: MADRID 2826

1. ACCORDING TO REPORTS RECEIVED AS OF LATE AFTERNOON APRIL 15, THE SO-CALLED "DAY OF PROTEST" RECEIVED VERY LUKEWARM SUPPORT AT BEST, AND WAS BARELY NOTICIABLE IN MADRID AND OTHER SPANISH INDUSTRIAL CENTERS. THE NATIONWIDE BAN ON PUBLIC GATHERINS IN EFFECT APRIL 14 AND 15 (MADRID 2484 NOTAL), ALSO SERVED TO PUT A DAMPER ON LABOR'S WOULD-BE PROTEST AGAINST THE GOVT'S ECONOMIC AND LABOR POLICIES. IN MADRID, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHILE LABOR SOURCES CLAIMED THAT "TENS OF THOUSANDS OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS" IN THE CAPITAL'S INDUSTRIAL BELT HAD PARTICIPATED IN WORK STOPPAGES AND ASSEMBLIES AT THE WROK SITE, A CIVIL GOVT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT ONLY ONE PERCENT OF THE AREA'S ONE AND A HALF MILLION STRONG WORK KORCE HAD BEEN INVOLVED. BY AND LARGE, THE SECTORS MOST AFFECTED (NATIONWIDE) WERE METAL AND CONSTRUCTION. MANY

MADRID COMMUTERS ARRIVED LATE AT THEIR JOBS BECAUSE OF SLOWDOWNS AMONG MUNICIPAL BUS DRIVES. ON APRIL 14, SIX UGT MILITANTS WERE ARRESTED (TO BE RELEASED SHORTLY AFTERWARDS) FOR DISTRIBUTING POSTERS ANNOUNCING THE UGT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 8 PM APRIL 15 OUTSIDE THE SSO MADRID PROVINCIAL OFFICE. A DOZEN WORKERS' COMMISSIONS (SWC) MILITANTS WERE ALSO REPORTEDLY BRIEFLY DETAINED FOR HANGING POSTERS AND SIMILAR ACTIVITIES. MADRID FIREMEN, ON STRIKE FOR FOUR DAYS NOW, WERE EVICTED BY POLICE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE'S CENTRAL STATION WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY TAKEN OVER BY ARMY PERSONNEL.

2. CHECKS WITH OUR CONSULATES IN BARCELONA, BILBAO, AND SEVILLA CONFIRMED A GENERALLY BUSINESS-AS-USUAL SITUATION. IN BARCELONA, THERE WERE ONLY SOME SCATTERED ONE-HOURS STOPPAGES AND NO EVIDENCE OF ANY UNUSUAL PRESENCE OF POLICE FORCES. BILBAO AND SEVILLA CHARACTERIZED THE DAY OF PROTEST AS A COMPLETE FAILURE. OF THE FOUR BASQUE PROVINCES, PRELIMINARY CHECKS REVEALED ONLY A FEW STOPPAGES IN THE PAMPLONA AREA. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SOME STRIKE ACTIVITY IN ASTRUIAS, IT WAS NOT RELATED TO THE DAY OF PROTEST. SEVILLA REPORTED EVERYTHING NORMAL, BUT OBSERVED THAT STAND-BY POLICE ELEMENTS WERE NOTICABLE AND THE GUARDIA CIVIL HAD BEEN ON A 24-HOUR ALERT APRIL 14 AND 15.

3. THE COMMENT OF SOC (SOLIDARITY OF CATALAN WORKERS) SECGEN XAVIER CASASSAS IS PERHAPS PERTINENT. HE TOLD LABATT APRIL 15 THAT THE AVERAGE SPANISH WORKER WAS IN NO MOOD TO ENGAGE IN POLITICAL ADVENTURISM, ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WERE NO ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO BE REALIZED. EVEN MILITANTS OF THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS' COMMISSIONS (SWC), NOW THAT THE PCE HAD BEEN LEGALIZED, HAD ONLY GIVEN PRO FORMA SUPPORT TO THE "DAY OF PROTEST". THE EMBASSY NOTES THAT SOC, AS ITS BASQUE REGIONAL COLLEAGUE, STV (SOLIDARITY OF BASQUE WORKERS), HAS NOT SUPPORTED THE EVENT, WHICH FROM THE ABOVE, CAN PERHAPS BE BETTER CHARACTERIZED AS A NON-EVENT. STABLER

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Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: ELAB, SP
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